

Bruxelles, le 3 fevrier 1983.

Note BIO (83) 58 aux Bureaux Nationaux
cc. aux Membres du Groupe du Porte-Parole

VISITE A LA COMMISSION DU VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH (van der Pas)

441.2(103)

Nous publierons a 16 heures aujourd'hui, avec embargo 16h30, le texte suivant sur la visite du Vice-President Bush a la Commission.(IP 52) Une conference de presse unilaterale de M. Bush aura lieu a 17 h et nous vous enverrons une synthese des que possible. Une conference de presse conjointe Thorn/Bush n'est pas prevue.

VICE-PRESIDENT BUSH VISITS THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION.

The Vice-President of the United States, George Bush, was received today by Gaston E. Thorn, President of the Commission of the European Communities. After a private meeting of 25 minutes, they had a working meeting of 1 hour attended by Vice-President Bush's delegation and several Members of the European Commission (list of delegations attached).

The visit which followed a visit in December by US Secretary of State, George Shultz, and four other Members of the US government, took place in a friendly and constructive atmosphere. President Thorn described these visits as "tangible signs of the political will on both sides of the Atlantic to manage our affairs in a way which will preserve and develop a relationship on which so much depends for the whole world".

He noted "the political will on both sides to defuse some major trade tensions between us" as reflected in the steel arrangement, the lifting of the pipeline sanctions, work towards a common approach on East-West trade and the result of the GATT Ministerial meeting.

But President Thorn also expressed the "considerable surprise of the Commission on US action to take over for 12-14 months the total Egyptian flour market at subsidised prices well below the world market." "This action seems hardly compatible with the spirit in which official talks on agriculture were launched in December". Mr. Thorn added : "We are forced to take this to the GATT as incompatible with GATT-rules and reserve the right to take counter-action if any further action of this kind were taken."

He stressed that "the Community has held, and will hold, to the GATT rules on agricultural subsidies" and that "the principles of the Common Agricultural Policy are not negotiable". "We recognise that we both need to operate policy adjustments, but our exports can not be held responsible for the difficulties of your farmers", he said.

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Referring to the present economic situation, with low growth and high unemployment, President Thorn said that "things are serious" and that it was important to restore confidence in the capacity of the West to keep under control an uncertain and confused situation. "We have a common responsibility - all the more in the run up to Williamsburg - to pursue three essential lines of action :

- more growth and closer concertation of our economic policies,
- restoring monetary stability and ensuring a concrete follow-up to the conclusions on this of the Versailles Summit,
- ensuring growth in developing countries, and regular growth in world trade by reinforcing the international financial institutions and the solidity of the banking system.

On East-West relations, President Thorn stressed the importance of Community cooperation in the work being done in the OECD on trade, finance, energy, agriculture and trade in technology.

List of Delegations

USA : - Vice-President George Bush
- Ambassador George S. Vest
- Admiral Daniel J. Murphy
Chief of Staff to the Vice-President
- Mr. Martin Feldstein,
Chairman, President's Council of Economic
Advisors
- The Honorable Richard Burt,
Assistant Secretary of State for European
Affairs
- Mr. Donald P. Gregg, Assistant to the
Vice-President for National Security Affairs
- Mr. Dennis Blair,
Senior staff member, National Security Council

COMMISSION : - President Gaston E. Thorn
- Vice-President Francois-Xavier Ortoli
- Vice-President Wilhelm Haferkamp
- Vice-President Etienne Davignon
- Poul Dalsager, Member of the Commission
- Secretary General Emile Noel
- Sir Roy Denman,
Head of the Commission's Delegation in
Washington

Amities,
Manuel SANTARELLI. Comeur 15h////

